

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
May 7, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Conf Room: Auditorium
Rialto, CA 92376

Commissioners present:

Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, David Ford, Michael Hill, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Tanya Perry, Jane Godager, Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Excused Absence:

May Farr, Veatrice Jews, Tom Rivera and Jane Mercer

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Teri Posey, Wayne Henkelmann, Mental Health Court; Alejandrina Perez, MHS Success First; Marsha Mathews, MHS, Inc.; Rodolfo Pinon, Casa De San Bernardino; Alex Fajardo, El Sol; Ed McField, Latino Health Collaborative; Ramona Golec, Tim Jackson, Lorie Bernard Eklund, Pathways to Recovery; Chuck Henson, Gary Rucker, Gregory Nyx, Bob Sudol, TEAM House; Doug Fazekas, Charlene Daniels, Vivien Limon, Cindy Messer, Dianne Sceranka, Jason Hill, David Miller, Doris Turner, Laretta Ross, Veronica Kelley, Michael Aragon, Mark Thomas, Angie Nieto, Joni Kincer, Michael Knight, Lisa McGinnis, André Bossieux, Linda Porter, Paula Rutten, Cheryl Long, Barbara Rose, Jennifer Kachelek, Amber Carpenter, Kerry Paysen, Kristen Martinez, Doreen Glenn, Lynn Neuenswander, Roberta Luna, David Denkers, Susanne Kulesa, Ron Smith, Andy Gruchy, Yvonne Love, Michelle Dusick, Jatin Dalal, Gary Atkins, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson David Ford called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. Director Rawland introduced Richard Louis, III, and new Assistant Director for DBH. Mr. Louis stated that he is very glad to be in San Bernardino and looks forward to working with the department and the Mental Health Commission as he becomes acclimated to his new role.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of April 2, 2009 were adopted as written after corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was announced that Lynn Neuenswander, DBH Public Information Officer was celebrating a birthday today. Happy Birthday, Lynn!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner Ford was glad everyone was able to attend today's meeting as times are very busy for everyone.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel participated on the interview panel for the DBH Community Liaison position. She feels that the panel selected an excellent candidate.

Commissioner Tanya Perry announced the Grand Opening of Lutheran Social Services in Big Bear. Additional county services have been incorporated into their office space, i.e., Transitional Assistance, Department of Children's Services, etc.

Commissioner Michael Hill acknowledged Veatrice Jews, Tanya Perry and May Farr for being selected for such prestigious awards.

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales stated that the County does move fast. After voicing concerns at the April 2nd Mental Health Commission meeting, Victorville Clubhouse received a stove and consumer bus passes. He thanked Bob Sudol, Dr. Ortiz and MHSA for the assistance. The Victor Valley Clubhouse has published its first newsletter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Rawland recognized all the members of the Mental Health Commission as tireless volunteers that attend monthly Commission meetings beginning with the Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. until the adjournment of the Public Session at 2:00 p.m. In addition, they meet with community agencies throughout the month through the District Advisory Committees.

Commissioner Farr and Jews have been identified as 2009 Women of Distinction for their dedicated community service by Assemblyperson Bill Emmerson with a luncheon in their honor today.

Commissioner Perry has been recognized as a Citizen of Achievement by the County League of Women Voters. Tanya is active in the community and the Mental Health Alliance in Big Bear.

The Department's Supervised Treatment after Release (STAR) Program, was recognized as the 2009 Best Practice Award by the Council of Mentally Ill Crime Offender. David Denkers, Program Manager II, stated that we are very proud; as this program helps clients stay out of jail.

MHSA

We recently received just over \$20 million funding for PEI and \$1.8 million for Innovation. If you are keeping score, since 2005 we have received \$160 million in MHSA funding; with an additional \$40 million within the next couple of months for Capital Facilities Projects and Technological Needs. Director Rawland acknowledged Lisa McGinnis and staff, as well as, Michelle Dusick for moving the MHSA process along and getting the money out of Sacramento and into our bank account.

County and State Budget

Allan and Richard Louis are meeting with all DBH staff within the next couple of months to provide budget updates, giving staff the opportunity to ask questions.

Alcohol and Drug Services have been reduced by \$8 million over the last 2 years.

Due to the 15-20% reduction in sales tax and vehicle license fees we were instructed by the County Administrative Office (CAO) to reduce our budget by 30%. Our costs must meet our revenue and DBH was able to submit a balanced budget on April 6, 2009. The following mitigation efforts will be implemented for FY 2009-10:

- Reduction in services
- Reduction in pharmacy costs
- Reduction in medical services
- Reduction in fee for service costs

Reductions will affect both county and contract providers programs. We cannot continue to provide the level of services as in the past.

There are still issues at the State level, with additional reductions to be known after the May 19 Special Election and the Governor's May Revise.

Due to the reduction in personal income, MHSA funding will likely be reduced by as much as \$30 million in FY 2010-11. According to the CAO Office, we will continue to have budget issues for another 3 to 4 years.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Peer and Family Advocates

Kristen Martinez, Mental Health Education Consultant, announced that May is Mental Health Month and also the 2-year anniversary of the Peer and Family Advocate (PFA) positions. She introduced Vivien Limon, Peer and Family Advocate II, who shared one of her recent accomplishments since becoming a PFA. Vivien applied for and received a scholarship to attend a conference in Washington, D.C., where she was able to speak with Senators Feinstein and Boxer and their representatives about the housing shortage in Upland. Vivien also mentioned that Congressman Pete Stark is an advocate of mental health parity.

The PFA's then shared their inspirational success stories by video with the audience.

NEW BUSINESS

The FY 2008-09 MHSA CSS Plan Update 2 was reviewed by the Mental Health Commission at this meeting.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Ed McField, Latino Health Collaborative, has been working with community agencies from the African American, Vietnamese and Asian Pacific Islander population on the Disparity Access Study to identify barriers that preclude individuals from seeking mental health services or utilizing resources in the County of San Bernardino.

200 participants of all age groups engage in focus groups and dialogue. The outcomes will be processed and implemented as designed for system changes. The final report will be released in September or October, with a formal presentation to the Mental Health Commission at the November 5th meeting. Mr. McField acknowledged the following DBH staff for their assistance: Veronica Kelley, Michael Knight, Maribel Gutierrez, André Bossieux, and Bob Sudol. Promotoras de Salud and Alex Fajardo have also provided assistance and have been engaged in this process.

Director Rawland announced that the Disparity Access Study was being funded by MHSA, set aside specifically for Cultural Competency to collaborate with other agencies to discover barriers, and received Board of Supervisor approval.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 1: Commissioner Bill Swift stated that their main objective is advertising and promoting services provided by Crisis Walk in Center (CWIC) and the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) in the High Desert. Most of the schools were not aware of these programs. We have invited the Chair of Special Education Plan Local Plan (SELPA) to join future meetings.

District 2 & 4: Commissioner Michael Hill announced their next DAC will be on May 27th.

District 3: Commissioner Christopher Massa announced that the next DAC meeting will be held on May 13th at 9:00 am at the Phoenix Clinic.

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that there was not a very large turnout at the last DAC meeting scheduled in Big Bear due to the snowfall. The Big Bear Alliance is working to establish a Transitional Age Youth Center and bringing on a psychiatrist.

District 5: Commissioner Jane Godager stated that their last DAC meeting was held at Mesa Clinic with a dramatic increase in attendance. She also mentioned that the members of the Mental Health Commission **LOVE** the consumer art adorning the walls of the Auditorium.
THANK YOU!

CLOSING

Allan Rawland stated that today's PFA stories prove that we are all connected. In that spirit, he shared the following story with the audience:

Allan volunteered to take part in this year's Homeless Count in January, assigned with another social worker in the Rancho Cucamonga area. They encountered a few, obviously homeless individuals, huddled under and sharing blankets in a shopping center. Director Rawland initiated a conversation with one man who was reading a book; offered the man his business card and told him to give him a call if he was interested in receiving services. The individual did call the following day and Gary Atkins took the lead to obtain sober living residential treatment for him that very day.

On April 30, Gary showed up at Allan's office door asking if Allan wanted to go to lunch with "them". Allan saw a vaguely familiar face; finally recognizing the same man from the shopping center four months previous. At lunch the man shared that one of the individuals huddled under the blanket that January evening had died; and the man immediately felt that connection with Allan and the business card. Allan had neglected to include phone call money along with the business card, so the man went about his routine of collecting cans and taking to recycling center for cash to make that phone call to Allan.

The man is currently receiving case management and Allan wouldn't be surprised to see the man as a future Peer and Family Advocate!

Chairman Ford stated that stories like this make us all so proud to be a part of the DBH family.

Lauretta Ross announced the call for consumer artwork due by May 22. There is no limit on the number of pieces one can submit. Other counties are taking our lead, developing calendars containing their consumer artwork. In addition, many of San Bernardino consumer artwork has been sent to the State to be displayed in their office.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1.51 p.m.

David Ford
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission